

ENGLISH LITERATURE A-LEVEL

For more information please see Mrs Berry

For whom is this course suitable?

Students studying English Literature will need to have gained a grade 5 in both English Language and English Literature.

All students will need to enjoy reading novels, plays, poetry and non-fiction and must understand that success in this qualification is largely dependent on independent wider reading as well as the study of nine set texts.

English Literature may be successfully combined with any number of other subjects: complementary areas include History, Sociology or Modern Languages, but this subject can prove a valuable addition to any combination of other subjects as it helps to develop candidates' skills in the essential areas of reading for meaning and analytical thinking.

What will I learn on this course?

A Level English Literature

The course consists of two examinations and one piece of coursework.

Paper 1: Love through the Ages

This unit comprises of the study of three texts: one poetry, one prose and one Shakespeare play and preparation for a response to unseen poetry. The unit is assessed through an open book examination of 3 hours and is worth 40 % of the final A-level qualification.

Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts

This unit comprises of the study of Modern Times Literature. Students will study three texts: one prose, one poetry and one drama. The unit is assessed in an open book examination of 2 ½ hours and is worth 40% of the final A-level qualification.

Independent critical study: Texts across time

This unit is the comparative study of two texts. The unit is assessed through one extended essay of 2,500 words and is worth 20% of the A-level qualification.

In general, students will study drama in performance, explore the way interpretations of texts change over time, acquire the skills necessary to deal with unseen texts and learn to make connections between works of literature. The course will also help to develop candidates' abilities as informed, independent readers, ensuring that they come to their own understanding of what a text means, but are open-minded about other people's interpretations.

What could I do at the end of my course?

A qualification in English Literature is an excellent grounding for any number of careers, particularly those that require the ability to communicate clearly, in speech or writing, and those that require the ability to analyse. Those interested in journalism, media, law or the civil service would benefit from studying English Literature.

